

BULLETIN

WINTER 2006

WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/BCCFS



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

HENRY L. GREEN

Codes must be subjected to continual examination to assure the optimal level of protection for citizens while not creating onerous burdens or obstacles to builders. Codes should result in maximum benefit for building occupants and address problems in the built environment.

The Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety is beginning the process of promulgating updates to the Building, Residential, Rehabilitation, Mechanical, and Plumbing codes. These updates coordinate with the three-year International Construction Code change cycle.

There are many steps in the process of rule promulgation and each step must move along smoothly to assure adoption of the rules in a timely manner.

The bureau first submits a Request for Rulemaking, which gives the bureau the authority to update a rule set. Committees are then formed and members meet on a regular basis to discuss and propose language and to assist in the process of drafting rules for the adoption of the rules.

Committees include people who are affected by the rules being adopted, in addition to others with an interest in the application of the rules. The diverse membership of the committee is critical to the success of the committee in drafting reasonable rules in a timely manner, and in providing support during the rulemaking process.

NEW LAWS ADDRESS NEW SMOKE ALARMS - EFFECTIVE MARCH 14, 2006

Beginning March 14, 2006 - per [Public Act 64 of 2004](#) - building and homeowners have one year to install smoke alarms in their building(s), structure(s) and/or residential dwelling(s) constructed before November 6, 1974 and be compliant with the law.

Public Act 65 of 2004 required updates to the 2003 Michigan Building Code, 2003 Michigan Residential Code and 2003 Michigan Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings to address the installation procedure for the required smoke alarms. The new smoke alarm rules, which are a result of the laws, become effective March 14, 2006, and are designed to set a minimum standard for structures built prior to November 6, 1974, to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the state.

As of March 14, 2007, each building, structure and residential dwelling shall have smoke alarms installed per the applicable rules in the Michigan Building Code, Michigan Residential Code, and the Michigan Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings.

These rules only pertain to buildings constructed PRIOR to November 6, 1974. Construction of all buildings built after November 6, 1974, must follow the codes set forth for new construction.

The amendments must be used in coordination with the 2003 editions of the Michigan Building Code, the Michigan Residential Code and the Michigan Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings. The affected pages may be downloaded and printed from the bureau's web site at www.michigan.gov/bccfs. These pages should be inserted into the 2003 editions of the Michigan Building, Residential and Rehabilitation code books. These amendments will be reflected in the next edition of the code.

If you do not have copies of the 2003 editions of the Michigan Building Code, Michigan Residential Code and the Michigan Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings they are available for purchase for \$65, \$45, and \$42 respectively from the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety, P.O. Box 30255, Lansing, Michigan 48909. Please use the Codes and Standards Order Form found on the bureau's web site at: www.michigan.gov/bccfs.

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN, CONTINUED

Comments and proposed code changes from other interested parties are encouraged and will assist the Code Advisory Committee in preparing effective draft rules. While you are free to make comments during the public hearing process, providing your comments up front, during the code review process allows the committee an opportunity to review, research and debate the impact your proposal will have and how it would fit within the applicable code.

The Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety is accepting public comments and proposed code changes for the Code Advisory Committee review phase of the 2006 Building, Residential, Rehabilitation, Mechanical and Plumbing codes. Please refer to the instructions and sample proposed code change on pages 11 and 12 of this Bulletin to see how proposed changes need to be presented.

BOILER DIVISION

A COMPANY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLETING PERMITTED WORK

By Robert Aben, Chief
Boiler Division

Section 13 of [1965 PA 290](#), MCL 408.763 states that "A person shall not engage in the business of installing or repairing boilers unless the person has obtained a license..." Sections 17 and 18 state that a person shall not install or repair a boiler without first securing a permit... and both sections also state that work shall not be performed except by or under the immediate supervision of a person licensed under the act.

Companies that employ an individual who holds a boiler installer or repairer license need to be aware if the company secures work that requires a boiler permit and the company's licensee ends employment with the company after securing the permit but before the work is complete, the permitted work must stop at that time. The company and licensee both must notify the Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety, Boiler Division of the end of

employment. The existing permits must be inspected and closed and the licensee's file must be corrected to show company affiliation.

The company must then employ another individual with the proper license. The new licensee must secure a new permit for the remainder of the work. There are no provisions in the boiler law or rules that allow a company to perform boiler work requiring a permit without a properly licensed person in their employ.

Should this situation arise, one alternative would be to contract another company employing a properly licensed person to complete the work.

Please remember from

previous articles that a company cannot borrow employees from other companies. The boiler licensee must work directly for the company doing the work. Questions may be directed to the Boiler Division at (517) 241-9334.

Boiler Permit Application
Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth
Bureau of Construction Codes & Fire Safety
Boiler Division
P.O. Box 30255
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 241-9334

Print **Clear**

FEE: \$65.00 (non-refundable)

IMPORTANT: Submit original and 2 copies of this application.

This application, when stamped approved by the Boiler Division, shall serve as a permit to install, repair, field erect, or alter this boiler as described on the application. Enclose a check or money order payable to **State of Michigan**. Mail completed application and payment to address listed above.

LEGAL REQUIREMENT

Rule 35. A person shall not install, remodel, alter, or repair a boiler without holding a proper license and first securing a permit from the boiler division, department of consumer and industry services.

Rule 36. Permits shall be issued only to persons licensed as required by the act and these rules. Work shall be performed by or under the supervision of a licensed person.

TYPE OF WORK: ☐ INSTALL ☐ REPAIR ☐ ALTER ☐ FIELD-ERECT ☐ PIPING

APPROVED BY (LICENSED PERSON): _____ **APPROVED DATE:** _____

PERMIT HOLDER'S SIGNATURE: _____ **PERMIT HOLDER'S NAME:** _____ **CLASS:** _____ **EXPIRATION DATE:** _____

BUILDING DIVISION

UNSAFE STRUCTURES IN MANUFACTURED HOME COMMUNITIES

By Larry Lehman, Chief
Building Division

The Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety (BCCFS) recently posted on its web site written communication from both the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG) regarding DEQ terminating its Manufactured Home Park program. These communications clarify which department assumes oversight responsibilities previously performed by DEQ.

The [Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Act](#) originally took effect January 1, 1973; the administration and enforcement provisions of the code were put into effect November 6, 1974, including the code enforcement of individual manufactured homes and site built construction since that date.

Local enforcing agencies are responsible for issuing building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits for the set up of

manufactured homes, construction permits for site built buildings and structures within manufactured home communities and approval of occupancy. With that responsibility they are also responsible for maintenance of the buildings and structures in accordance with section R102.7 of the Michigan Residential Code (MRC) and section 101.4.5 of the Michigan Building Code (MBC). Both codes legally reference the 2003 International Property Maintenance Code for the maintenance of buildings.

When a building or structure is reported as unsafe, the building official shall investigate and write a report to be filed on the unsafe condition. An unsafe building or structure shall be made safe or demolished after the owner or applicant has been issued a violation and authorization is obtained by a legal proceeding. Questions may be directed to the Building Division at (517) 241-9317.

ELECTRICAL DIVISION

PERSONNEL STAFFING AGENCIES

By Virgil Monroe, Chief
Electrical Division

Recently, the Electrical Division has received a number of telephone calls concerning employment/staffing agencies sending employees out to work for electrical contractors. The most common question asked is whether this practice is allowed per the Electrical Administrative Act, [PA 217 of 1956](#).

338.887 Sec. 7 (2) states, "Except as otherwise provided in this act or in subsection (3), a person, other than a person licensed under this act and employed by and working under the direction of a holder of an electrical contractor's license, shall not in any manner undertake to execute any electrical wiring."

Stated simply, if a person is installing electrical wiring, that person must be licensed as either a master or journeyman or be registered as an electrical apprentice employed by an electrical

contractor or the holder of an electrical affidavit.

The electrical contractor/affidavit holder must validate the required work experience for the apprentice when he/she applies for the electrical journey examination. This also applies to journeymen applying to take the master examination.

This question was brought before the Electrical Administrative Board at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 2, 2005. The board unanimously supported the bureau and Electrical Division's interpretation of section 7 (2) of the act.

Therefore, a person who is employed by an employment/staffing agency, even though he/she is working under the direction of an electrical contractor, would be in violation of the act because the employer is not an electrical contractor. Any questions may be directed to the Electrical Division at (517) 241-9320.

EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

Examination	Date	Location	Deadline
Boiler Installer and Repairer	Mar 1, 2	Okemos	Feb 3
Boiler National Board	Mar 1, 2	Okemos	Feb 3
Electrical/Fire Alarm/Sign	Feb 23, Mar 23	Okemos	Jan 26, Feb 23
Electrician - Journeyman	Mar 13, 14, 15	Okemos	Feb 13
Electrician - Master	Mar 16	Okemos	Feb 16
Elevator - Cont./Cert. of Comp.	Mar 31	Okemos	Mar 10
Elevator Journeyman	Mar 28	Okemos	Mar 7
Mechanical Contractor	Mar 14	Lansing	Feb 13
Plumbers - Contractor	Mar 21	East Lansing	
Plumbers - Master and Journey	Mar 1	East Lansing	

Dates and times are subject to change. Visit the [BCCFS web site for updates](#).

F Y I
THE BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION
CODES AND FIRE SAFETY'S
ANNUAL TRAINING IS SCHEDULED
FOR MARCH 7-9, 2006.

ELEVATOR SAFETY DIVISION

ELEVATOR RULES CHANGES

By Calvin W. Rogler, Chief
Elevator Safety Division

The new Michigan Elevator Rules became effective December 12, 2005. As such, all elevating devices must meet the new requirements.

The new Michigan Elevator Code Rule set adopts the following standards: American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators, **ASME A17.1-2004**; American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Safety Standards for Platform Lifts and Stairway Chairlifts **ASME A18.1-2003**; American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Safety Standard for Belt Manlifts, **ASME A90.1-2003**; and the American National Standard Institute, Safety Requirements for Personnel Hoists and Employee Elevators for Construction and Demolition Operations, **ANSI A10.4-2004**.

Copies of these standards are available from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers by calling (800) 843-2763 or

from Global Engineering by calling (877) 413-5184. Be sure to be specific in identifying the desired standards.

One rather notable change in the new **ASME A17.1-2004** is found in Section 2.27. Specifically, the modification is found in Section 2.27.3.3.7 (Phase II Emergency In-Car Operation), (page 102). This section now requires a fire fighters' operation panel. It also requires the panel to be behind a locked cover. The fire fighters' operation panel is shown in Fig. 2.27.3.3.7 Panel Layout. The proper location of the required buttons, switches, and visual signals are reflected in the figure. Please read these sections very carefully as there are several new requirements. All new elevator installations must comply with this section. An altered elevator depending on what is being altered may be required to comply with this section. If

uncertain this section must be complied with in regard to the alteration, please call the Elevator Safety Division at (517) 241-9337 and please have a code book open to the section in question.



ELEVATOR DOORWAY MOST COMMON CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS

By Calvin W. Rogler, Chief
Elevator Safety Division

Elevators have become such an everyday part of our lives we sometimes neglect to observe the necessary safety precautions. Most elevator accidents happen in the doorways of the elevators. A great number of these accidents involve passengers being either struck or pinched by the closing elevator doors. More and more often, passengers thrust themselves or body parts in harms way to keep elevator doors from closing. This is not the best way to reopen the car doors. Due to the door mass and speed the door

reversing device may take some distance to stop and reverse.

When in the elevator car press the "Door Open" button to either reopen or hold open the elevator doors. When in the hallway press the hall call button to reopen or hold open the car doors. It is important to remember if something is placed in front of the doors in an attempt to cause them to reopen - the doors may **not** reopen. Elevators are one of the safest forms of travel. They are so safe that people have become complacent, please use caution when entering an elevator.

LAND SURVEY & REMONUMENTATION

SUBDIVISION APPROVALS STREAMLINED WHILE SITE CONDOMINIUM APPROVALS REMAIN UNCHANGED

By Maynard Dyer, Director

Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation

[Public Act 525 of 2004](#) amended the Land Division Act. The changes in the amendment did not become effective until July 1, 2005. This allowed for a six-month transition period, seemingly an adequate timeframe for everyone to get up to speed on the new procedures. So far, the results are mixed. The Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation (OLSR) is seeing as little as three weeks for a final plat to be approved by the local units of government. Of course, each development is different and encounters differing development challenges. All of the planning, engineering, surveying and document preparation must also be taken into consideration. Obtaining the final approval from the OLSR on any development is the last step in bringing the lots in a subdivision to market.

The approval process for “site condominiums” has remained unchanged as the Condominium Act, 1978 PA 59, MCL 559.101 has not been amended in that regard since 1983 when state review was eliminated. All responsibility for approval of condominiums still lies with local government except for projects in flood plain areas.

The approvals necessary to record a subdivision plat under the Land Division Act are specified in the act. Additional steps may not be created in the plat approval process. The approvals necessary for condominiums, including “site condominiums”, are found in Section 141 of the Condominium Act. This section simply states that condominium projects shall comply with applicable local law, ordinances, and regulations. There is a prohibition against treating condominium projects differently from other projects or developments under a different form of ownership. For instance, the purchaser of a lot in a subdivision buys the land. In a condominium project, a purchaser buys a cube of airspace and acquires a joint undivided interest in the land. There is also a prohibition from a city with a population less than 1 million from placing a moratorium on conversion condominium projects. Only an ordinance or regulation enacted at the local level would set forth the review and approval process for condominiums.

To understand the requirements of the Condominium Act for a particular condominium project, one must first identify the type of condominium project. There are different requirements for residential, commercial, industrial, office, marina, campground, manufactured home, etc. The type of condominium project must be stated in the bylaws contained in the master deed,

R 559.501(5)(c). A “site condominium”, although not defined or specifically named in the Condominium Act, is a single family detached residential condominium development, see OAG No. 6577 and the decision of the Court of Appeals in [Stanley v City of St. Clair Shores](#), COA Docket No. 245168 (decided 07/27/04).

All residential condominiums must meet the requirements of the Condominium Act and its Administrative Rules, including the requirements set forth in Section 66 and R 559.402. The floor plans and the vertical boundaries within the building unit are also required. Under Section 11 of the Condominium Act, a new residential unit must be built by a builder licensed under Article 24 of the Occupational Code, 1980 PA 299, MCL 339.101 before it is offered for sale. Additionally, an occupancy permit must be issued prior to the release of escrowed funds for purchase of a residential unit in accordance with Section 103b(3)(a) of the Condominium Act.

There are a number of other requirements for “site condominiums”/residential condominiums that many are not aware of including distribution of a condominium buyer’s hand book, disclosure statement relating to the project, an explanation of co-owners’ possible liability under Section 58, projected budget for the first year of operation of the association, explanation of the escrow arrangement, express warranties, if the project is expandable, explanation of the contents of the master deed, etc all specified in Section 84a. Additionally, the condominium association is responsible for procuring at least minimal insurance for fire and extended coverage, vandalism and malicious mischief under R 559.508.

The Court of Appeals in *Stanley* addressed the issue of a local unit applying requirements adopted for land subdivisions to “site condominiums”. The court said “a site condominium is typically the home itself” and “the lots upon which the homes sit are called “limited common elements.” And “most site condominiums have the same wide-ranging ramifications as traditionally platted subdivisions” and affirmed that the application of the requirements adopted for platted subdivisions apply to the instant “site condominium”.

The application of zoning adopted by local units of government has also been affirmed in the decision of the Court of Appeals as appropriately applied to “site condominiums” in [Zeervo v Chippewa Township](#), COA Docket No.238800 (decided 08/26/03). Although the referenced Court of Appeals decisions are not published, the legal community and others will rely upon them for guidance.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & CONSUMER SERVICES

INSPECTOR REGISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION

By Scott Fisher, Director

Office of Local Government and Consumer Services

As indicated in previous editions of the Bulletin, the bureau's web site now contains a list of continuing education programs that have been approved for building officials, building inspectors, electrical inspectors, mechanical inspectors, plumbing inspectors, plan reviewers and fire inspectors for the 2002-2006 registration cycle.

The list is updated after each meeting of the Construction Code Commission. In 2006, updates will appear after January 11, March 1, May 3, July 11, September 13 and November 1. For more information, visit our web site at: www.michigan.gov/bccfs.

Although it is the beginning of a new calendar year and there are several months before the registration cycle ends, it is impor-

tant to review the most recent credit statement to determine the type and number of educational hours required prior to September 17, 2006. Once that is determined, begin making arrangements to attend courses that are necessary to meet requirements.

Undeniably, the last September of the registration cycle has a habit of sneaking up. Failure to secure necessary educational hours and/or renew a registration in a timely manner may mean a lost registration, or more importantly a lost job.

Please note: The Office of Local Government and Consumer Services will mail credit statements prior to the end of the cycle in March and June, 2006. There will be no other statements prior to the September 17, 2006 deadline for re-registration.

Questions may be directed to the Office of Local Government and Consumer Services at (517) 241-9347.

MANUFACTURED HOUSING COMMISSION

By Kevin DeGroat

Office of Local Government and Consumer Services

Recent Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) budget levels have led to changes in how manufactured housing communities are regulated. Before October 1, 2005, DEQ independently regulated or coordinated county health department regulations and inspections of a manufactured housing community's water supply, drainage, sewage, garbage, and pest maintenance systems. The regulatory standards governing these systems are established in R325.3311 to R325.3393 of DEQ's Mobile Home Parks and Seasonal Mobile Home Parks Health Standards. The [Mobile Home Commission Act](#) requires developers to meet these standards before the bureau issues a construction permit and/or license for the proposed manufactured housing community. After October 1, 2005, however, these

review responsibilities were divided among the following state and local agencies as noted in the chart on the following page.

The bureau is working with local building and health departments to streamline the execution of the redistributed duties. Questions about this reorganization may be directed to the appropriate agency as listed on the chart by topic.

Inquiries about concerns charted under the category "Local" can be made to the jurisdiction in which the manufactured housing community is located. The DEQ can be contacted at (517) 241-1300 about problems with those water, sewer and septic systems described under its caption in the chart's left column.

Questions may be directed to the Office of Local Government and Consumer Services at (517) 241-9347.



Manufactured Housing Community (MHC) Review

	DEQ	Plumbing Division	Local	Building Division	Plan Review Division
Water	MHC private wells. Government-owned systems.	MHC-owned water systems connected to local water systems.			
Sewer	MHC's with private water sewage treatment plants.	MHC sewer lines connected to private water sewage treatment systems.	Problems between local sewer line connection and MHC line.		
	Sewage treatment plants that discharge into Michigan waters.	Sewer lines within MHC connected to local sewer and septic.			
	Below-grade septic system over 10k gallon water flow.	MH resident responsible for sewer line between home and MHC sewer line.	Approves permits of MHC septic systems with water flow discharges under 10k gallons.		
		Septic sewer and sewer lines for systems with water flow discharges less than 10k gallons.			
Drainage		Storm water drainage problems.	Storm water drainage problems.		
Garbage/Vermin/Maintenance			Local law enforcement under Michigan residential and building codes.	Cooperation in local enforcement efforts.	
Plan Review			Preliminary plan review.		Get local and state approvals before issuing construction permit.
Inspections	No annual inspections.		Inspections on property maintenance and structural code complaints.	No annual inspections. Inspections upon complaint.	

MECHANICAL DIVISION

LP TANK CHANGE OUTS

By Tennison Barry, Chief
Mechanical Division

Mechanical permits are not required when a LP tank is being changed without changing the gas line from the tank to the structure. As specified in the Michigan Mechanical Code, section 106.2 (j) and the Michigan Residential Code, section 105.2 xi.

PERMITS NOT REQUIRED: A person is not required to obtain a permit to perform mechanical work on any of the following items: **Gas piping limited to 10 feet in length and**

not more than 6 fittings.

When reading these sections, it is clear that a person who is changing a tank can change the tank without installing more than 10 feet of pipe and less than 6 fittings; therefore, no permit is required to connect the tank to the piping system. Please be aware, although there is no permit required, the company changing the tank must have a mechanical contractor's license. Questions may be directed to the Mechanical Division at (517) 241-9325.

PLAN REVIEW DIVISION

COLD WEATHER CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE AND MASONRY

By Todd Cordill, NCARB, Assistant Chief
Plan Review Division

The process of concrete and masonry construction is dependent on the weather conditions at the construction site. Construction using both cast-in-place concrete and unit masonry has both constant and variable components. The raw materials are fairly constant; the mixed materials are variable. The temperature of both constant and variable components greatly affects the integrity of the completed construction. There are several considerations to make with respect to both cast-in-place concrete and unit masonry design and construction. The probable weather conditions, applicable code, preparation, construction, and protection shall be considered with both design and construction using these materials.

Requirements for concrete construction are found in Chapter 19 - Concrete, of the 2003 Michigan Building Code. Section *1905.12 Cold Weather Requirements* states that concrete that is to be placed during freezing or near-freezing weather shall have adequate equipment for heating concrete materials and protecting the poured concrete. This shall be done both during the mixing and the curing of the concrete. Concrete materials and reinforcement, forms, fillers and the ground that concrete will contact shall be free from frost. Also, frozen material or materials containing ice shall not be used.

The 2003 Michigan Building Code requirements for masonry construction are found in Chapter 21 Masonry. Section *2104.3 Cold Weather Construction* lists three subsections of construction requirements- preparation (2104.3.1), construction (2104.3.2), and protection (2104.3.3). These requirements apply when either the ambient air temperature falls below 40 degrees Fahrenheit or the temperature of masonry units is below 40 degrees F. Subsection *2104.3.1 Preparation* has requirements that the temperature of masonry units and adjacent surfaces are sufficiently warm and dry before setting. Subsection *2104.3.2 Construction* has requirements listed for ambient air temperatures in four ranges - between 40

degrees F and 32 degrees F; between 32 degrees F and 25 degrees F; between 25 degrees F and 20 degrees F; and below 20 degrees F. Mortar and aggregate temperatures are specifically outlined in these subsections. Also, glass unit masonry shall not be laid below 40 degrees F. As the temperature drops below 25 degrees F wind breaks may be required. Below 20 degrees F enclosures and auxiliary heat are required.

Subsection *2104.3.3 Protection* also has requirements listed for several ambient air temperature ranges. Protection measures apply after the masonry is placed. The anticipated minimum and mean temperatures shall be considered. Glass unit masonry shall be kept at a temperature above 40 degrees F for 48 hours after setting. The temperature ranges are: between 40 degrees F and 25 degrees F; between 25 degrees F and 20 degrees F; and 20 degrees F. Weather-resistive membrane protection is required for all these temperature ranges. As the temperature drops below 25 degrees F weather-resistive insulating blankets are required. Below 20 degrees F heated enclosures are required. There are minimum timeframes listed in section 2104, to keep the set materials above freezing.

Compliance with the above-mentioned code requirements should be determined both during plan review and inspections. During plan review the construction documents (drawings and specifications) shall be reviewed for compliance with the cold weather code requirements. This is especially the case with applications for footing and foundation or building permits, unless it is known that the construction will take place during hot weather. In Michigan, the cold weather code requirements could apply during any season, depending on temperatures. During construction it is imperative that on-site inspections are done for cold weather code requirements when the ambient temperature is below 40 degrees F. If the necessary cold weather requirements are not implemented, the integrity of the concrete or masonry assembly will be compromised. If the building load-bearing structure is compromised, then structural failure may result.

PLUMBING DIVISION

PRODUCT EVALUATION FOR HUBLESS CAST IRON SOIL PIPE AND FITTINGS IN SANITARY AND STORM DRAINS

**By Robert Konyndyk, Chief
Plumbing Division**

The Plumbing Division has received several inquiries related to hubless cast iron soil pipe and fittings questioning if specific products conform to the Michigan Plumbing Code, 2003 edition. The products in question were produced in several countries and distributed by importers/wholesalers with their company name identification.

The code establishes criteria for no hub pipe and fittings in drainage waste and vent applications. Section 303.1 requires the product to bear the identification of the manufacturer; Section 303.4 requires third-party testing; and several sections require conformance to CISPI 301-00 or ASTM A888-98e1. Valid third-party testing conformance to either or both of the standards is acceptable.

The Plumbing Division believes that products of this nature, which do not meet the applicable standards, are not acceptable at the point of installation and inspection by the Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety. Numerous test reports and documents have been analyzed for code and performance compliance. Concerns were based upon test report failures and inaccuracies, and lack of code compliance for identification of the manufacturer.

The standards establish product performance guidelines for marking, dimensions, tolerances, pattern lay lengths, physical, and chemical composition. The test reports, which were provided did not confirm compliance for dimensions and tolerances in several cases.

The code and standards mandate the pipe and fittings be marked with the country of origin and manufacturer's name or registered trademark to provide identification. The importance of labeling is to track the products being installed to the manu-

facturer. Several products do not have acceptable label identification. The incorrect labeling contained one or more of the following: an importer's identification, unregistered trademarks, trademarks registered to companies no longer in business, identification scribed into the fitting rather than cast onto the fitting, or no information related to the manufacturer. The country of origin identification is not sufficient without clear individual manufacturer information. Importer identification only is a problem because several different foundry manufacturers supply several of the same importers.

The Plumbing Division is anxious to resolve acceptance decisions and allow all manufacturers meeting the standard and code requirements to have products installed. It is anticipated that manufacturers, third party testers and code officials will work together quickly to resolve these concerns. During the interim, the Plumbing Division will institute one of the following methods to resolve its concerns:

1. The State of Michigan Certificate of Acceptability, product approval process established by the [Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act, Act 230 of 1972](#), Section 21 may be utilized.
2. The International Code Council Evaluation Service process may be utilized for evaluation and acceptance by this office in accordance with the Michigan Plumbing Code, 2003, Section 105.2.
3. Assurance shall be provided for conformance to the code standards, Section 102.8 and third party testing required in Section 303.4 of the Michigan Plumbing Code. Criteria for testing submissions and evaluations will be provided upon request.

Questions may be directed to the Plumbing Division at (517) 241-9330.

BCCFS CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Addresses:

P.O. Box 30254 (General correspondence, Office of the State Fire Marshal)

P.O. Box 30255 (Codes, permits, licenses, and other documents containing payment)

P.O. Box 30700 (Office of Fire Fighter Training)

P.O. Box 30704 (Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation)

P.O. Box 30222 (Office of Local Government and Consumer Services)

Lansing, Michigan 48909

Telephone Numbers:

Administration (517) 241-9302

Office of Administrative Services (517) 335-2972

Telephone Numbers, continued

Office of Management Services (517) 241-9313

Boiler Division (517) 241-9334

Building Division (517) 241-9317

Electrical Division (517) 241-9320

Elevator Safety Division (517) 241-9337

Office of Fire Fighter Training (517) 373-7981

Mechanical Division (517) 241-9325

Office of Local Gov't. & Consumer Services (517) 241-9347

Office of Land Survey & Remonumentation (517) 241-6321

Office of the State Fire Marshal (517) 241-8847

Plan Review Division (517) 241-9328

Plumbing Division (517) 241-9330

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

LEGISLATORS CREATE FIRE CAUCUS

By Andy Neumann, State Fire Marshal

A new bipartisan, bicameral caucus has been created to prevent and prepare for emergencies in Michigan. This new Michigan Fire Service Caucus unites Republicans and Democrats in support of fire service legislation and state policy that benefits all first responders. The new caucus will provide a voice for

Michigan's 33,000 first responders in Lansing and will transform the fire service as a whole.

Representative David Farhat, Representative Chris Kolb, Senator Valde Garcia, and Senator Mike

Prusi and many of their House and Senate colleagues have joined together to form the Michigan Fire Service Caucus, which has quickly become one of the largest caucuses in the state legislature. One of the caucus's main goals is to promote safety and awareness for Michigan's residents during all types of emergencies.

- The fire caucus will work to promote and support effective statewide emergency services;
- Ensuring statewide fire safety and prevention programs are developed and distributed;
- Securing the establishment of effective fire codes and enforcement;
- Promoting the safety of Michigan's firefighters through effective state training and certification programs;
- Providing that effective homeland security programs and policies are adopted for firefighters, the first responders; and
- Maintaining an effective statewide emergency medical system to serve communities throughout the state.



FIRE FIGHTERS' TRAINING COUNCIL

OFFT TRAINING UPDATES

**By Joseph A. Grutza, Director
Office of Fire Fighter Training**

The Office of Fire Fighter Training (OFFT) had a busy 2005 fiscal year delivering courses, implementing new courses, and preparing the new fire officer program.

The following is a breakdown of several courses and the number of students completing those courses: Fire Fighter I – 533 students completing the course, Fire Fighter II – 308 students, Fire Fighter I & II – 1365 students, Driver's Training – 2015 students, Fire Officer I – 225 students, Fire Officer II – 76 students, Fire Officer III – 94 students, FRA – 2213 students, FRO – 1780 students, Ed Meth – 216 students, Liquid Propane Gas Emergencies – 373 students, and Elevator Training – 63 students.

During 2005, the OFFT delivered the following train-the-trainer programs: Educational Methodology, Driver Training, First Responder Awareness, First Responder Operations, Emer-

gency Response to: Tactical Consideration: EMS; NIMS ICS for the Fire Service, Introduction to Unified Command for Multi-Agencies and Catastrophic Incidents, and Elevator Training.

A few new courses emerged during 2005: NIMS Incident Command System for the Fire Service, Introduction to Unified Command for Multi-Agencies and Catastrophic Incidents, Liquid Propane Gas Emergencies (sponsored by the Michigan Propane Gas Association, free of charge to fire departments), and the National Fire Incident Reporting System 5.0. The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) course provides training to fire departments in the completion and submission of NFIRS reports required by Public Act 207.

Starting in 2006, the new fire officer program from Thomson Delmar will replace the Maryland Fire Rescue Institute Fire Officer I and II program.

Questions may be directed to the Office of Fire Fighter Training at (517) 373-7981.

CODE REVIEW PROCESS TO BEGIN

HOW TO SUBMIT PROPOSED CODE CHANGES FOR REVIEW DURING THE 2006 BUILDING, RESIDENTIAL, PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL CODES AND REHABILITATION CODE FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS CODE REVIEW PROCESS - SAMPLE ON PAGE 12

The Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety is accepting public comments and proposed code changes for the Code Advisory Committee review phase of the 2006 Michigan Building, Residential, Plumbing, and Mechanical Codes and Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings. **There is a sample of how a submission should look on the following page.**

Review of the codes will begin in February.

The following **REQUIRED** information **MUST** be included within your submitted proposal.

1. Please separate proposals by code type and by section within that code set.
2. Indicate at the top of your document for which code set you are submitting.
3. Indicate the section, table or figure your proposal affects.
4. Provide the name of the local government, organization, or individual proposing the code change.
5. Provide the name, address, telephone number, fax number and email address of the contact person to supply information, as needed, on the proposed changes.
6. The specific section for which an amendment is proposed should be listed. The **entire section** should be reproduced, including the proposed amendatory language.
7. All added words should be **in bold type**.
8. All deleted words should be struck through. (example)
9. If more than one page is necessary, include your name, the code set and section number on each additional page.
10. Thoroughly explain the need and reason for the proposed change including any anticipated benefits, and economic cost or savings realized by the proposed change, as well as any other information appropriate to assist the Bureau and committee in a clear understanding of the issue. During the rulemaking process, the Bureau must defend the need and reasonableness of all proposed rule changes; therefore, a detailed explanation is necessary to ensure the committee thoroughly considers all aspects of the proposal.

11. Mail, fax or email the completed information to:

Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth

Bureau of Construction Codes & Fire Safety

P.O. Box 30254

Lansing, MI 48909

Attn: Dianne Barmes

Fax: (517) 241-9570

dbarme@michigan.gov

BOARDS AND COMMISSION MEETINGS

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Barrier Free Design Board	Mar 17	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Board of Boiler Rules	Mar 14	9:30 am	Okemos – Suite 116
Construction Code Commission	Mar 1	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Electrical Administrative Board	Feb 3, April 14	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Elevator Safety Board	Mar 31	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Fire Fighters' Training Council	Feb 8, April 12	10:00 am	Okemos – Suite 116
Manufactured Housing Commission	Feb 8, April 19	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Michigan Joint Fire Service Council	Feb 16, Mar 16	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Board of Mechanical Rules	Mar 22	9:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
State Fire Safety Board	Mar 30	1:00 pm	Okemos – Conf Room 3
State Plumbing Board	Feb 28, April 11	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 1

Dates and times are subject to change. Visit the [BCCFS web site](http://www.michigan.gov/BCCFS) for updates.

Michigan Township
Building Department
P.O. Box 55555
Michigan City, MI 49999

John Smith, 1500 Smith Rd, Michigan City, Michigan, 49999

Representing: Michigan Township

Telephone: 555.555.5555

Facsimile: 555.555.5565

E-Mail: jsmith@mitwp.com

January 13, 2006

Ref: **PROPOSED CODE CHANGE FOR 2006 RESIDENTIAL CODE**

Revision to:

Section: 102.7.1

Revise 102.7.1 as follows:

1. R102.7.1 Additions, alterations or repairs. Additions, alterations or repairs to any structure shall conform to that required for a new structure without requiring the existing structure to comply with all of the requirements of this code, unless otherwise stated. **Unless otherwise required by this code, an alteration or repair shall not be used as justification for requiring any other existing part of the structure not being altered or repaired to be brought into compliance with this code.** Additions, alterations or repairs shall not cause an existing structure to become unsafe or adversely affect the performance of the building. ~~Install new window and window well, or an exterior door with stairs for emergency escape and rescue, even if no bedroom is being added.~~

SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

The proposed modification is intended to limit the ripple effect that often results when certain alterations are undertaken – that being a claim by the AHJ that portions of the home not within the scope of work and not being altered must nonetheless be made to comply with the new code. Though the intent of this change is to limit to application of the code only to portions being altered, requirements for smoke detectors for instance would still be triggered.

This is one is a series of code changes intended to provide flexibility in applying the residential code to existing homes while maintaining the appropriate level of health and safety. The proposed text is borrowed and adapted from the current VA Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC). It is included to provide the code official with a tool to help guide the extent to which to IRC, written with new construction in mind, should apply to existing homes being altered. In many States where the IRC has been adopted, the affect of applying the code in a simple basement remodel has had enormous negative impacts. Simply put, the ripple affect of applying the IRC to existing homes in some cases has resulted in additional work and costs that are disproportionate to the intended scope of work. The unintended consequence here in MD, NY, IN, KY, and other States that have adopted the IRC is that homeowners are being forced to choose to do work without permits because the code provides the code official with little flexibility in applying the code. In these and other state, where simple basement remodels have been undertaken, the requirements for stair risers, treads, handrails, landings, head room, illumination, as well as the requirements for minimum ceiling heights and emergency escape and rescue windows or doors have each been imposed by many jurisdictions even where the stairs were not associated with the scope of work. The result has been an increase in the cost of the intended remodel. The affect of requiring an escape window in habitable spaces in basements can easily approach \$10,000 in some markets when one considers the cost to excavate, create an opening in the foundation wall, head it off, frame and install a new window and window well, install window well drainage to foundations drains, damp or waterproof the foundation, and re-landscape. Absent clear guidance in the code, some localities, being reasonable, have used discretion when applying the IRC to existing homes. However, other localities applying the code literally, have found that more reasonable code requirements were needed to provide the code official with reasonable and cost effective options so that homeowners who want to increase usability of their existing home can do so without breaking the budget, and without doing work without a permit.